

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

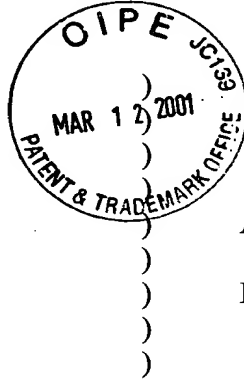
In the application of:

GIROUARD, Bruno et al.

Application No.: 09/472,134

Filed: December 23, 1999

Title: SNOWMOBILE



Art Unit: 3618

Examiner: Boehler, A.

Suppl  
#13/C  
3-15-01

March 12, 2001

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**

The Assistant Commissioner of  
Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 40, 44-46, 81 and 82 as follows:

40. (Thrice Amended) A snowmobile, comprising:  
a frame;  
a straddle seat disposed on the frame, the seat being dimensioned to support a standard rider in a standard position in which the standard rider straddles the seat while the snowmobile is heading straight ahead on flat terrain;  
an engine disposed on the frame in front of the seat;  
a steering device disposed on the frame and spaced forward of the seat such that, when the rider grasps the steering device in the standard position, the rider's torso is tilted toward the steering device and the rider's arms extend toward the steering device with the rider's elbows substantially over the rider's feet;